

The COmbined DNA Index System

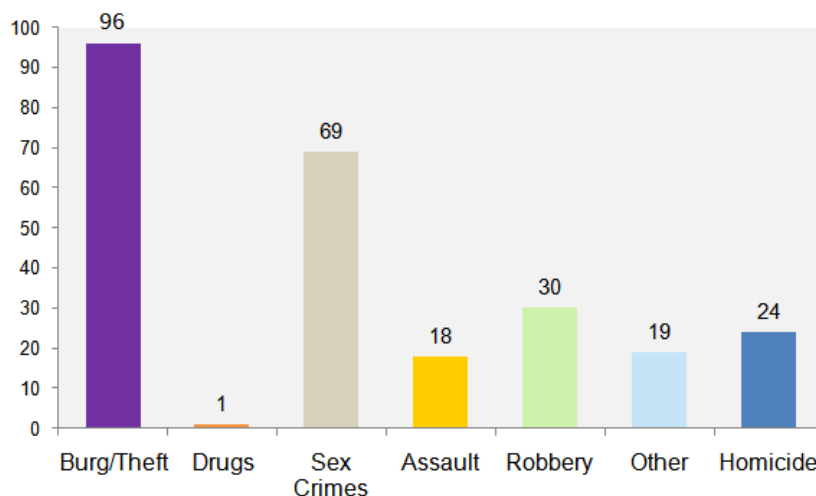
Newsletter

GOODBYE TO 2009!

The CODIS Laboratory is proud to report that there were a total of **257** CODIS hits in 2009. That averages out to almost 5 hits every week! This success could not have been attained without the help of all our collectors. A sincere thank you for all of your continued hard work. Please see page 3 of this newsletter for additional information regarding these exciting hits and how your agency's county has contributed.

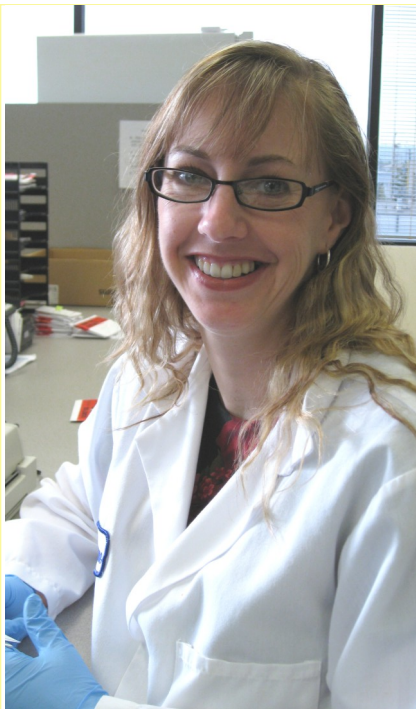
The chart below indicates the types of criminal investigations that were aided by the 2009 CODIS hits. Last year, 55% of these CODIS hits were for serious crimes against persons (sex crimes, assaults, robberies and homicides).

2009 CODIS Hits by Crime Type



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ✦ How many CODIS hits did your county produce?
- ✦ Meet Marianne Les-sard!
- ✦ Spotlight on a CODIS hit
- ✦ Limited collector training now available
- ✦ Do you have criminal records access?



MEET MARIANNE!

Last August the CODIS Laboratory welcomed its newest staff member, Marianne Lessard. In a much anticipated addition, Marianne is our dedicated administrative employee. Rather than analyzing samples in the lab Marianne is responsible for handling sample accession. We receive around 1,300 samples a month and it is now primarily Marianne who checks each one for completeness and accuracy. She assigns each sample a unique laboratory number and enters the information into our laboratory data-

base. If information for a sample is missing or needs verification you can anticipate Marianne contacting your agency. Marianne also handles kit orders and other various tasks related to our laboratory.

Marianne comes to us after 8 years working for Sage Software. She has 2 children, enjoys reading, puzzles, scrapbooking and camping. Currently Marianne is working towards participating in English horseback riding shows. Please welcome this much-needed and appreciated addition to our CODIS family.

“The future depends on what we do in the present.”

~Mahatma Gandhi

LIMITED COLLECTOR TRAINING NOW AVAILABLE

Last fall the CODIS Laboratory conducted on-site collector training for some of our King County collectors. The training takes approximately one hour, though there is some flexibility if there are agency-specific issues to address, and covers: basics about CODIS, the CODIS Laboratory, and the ins and outs of convicted offender DNA sample collection.

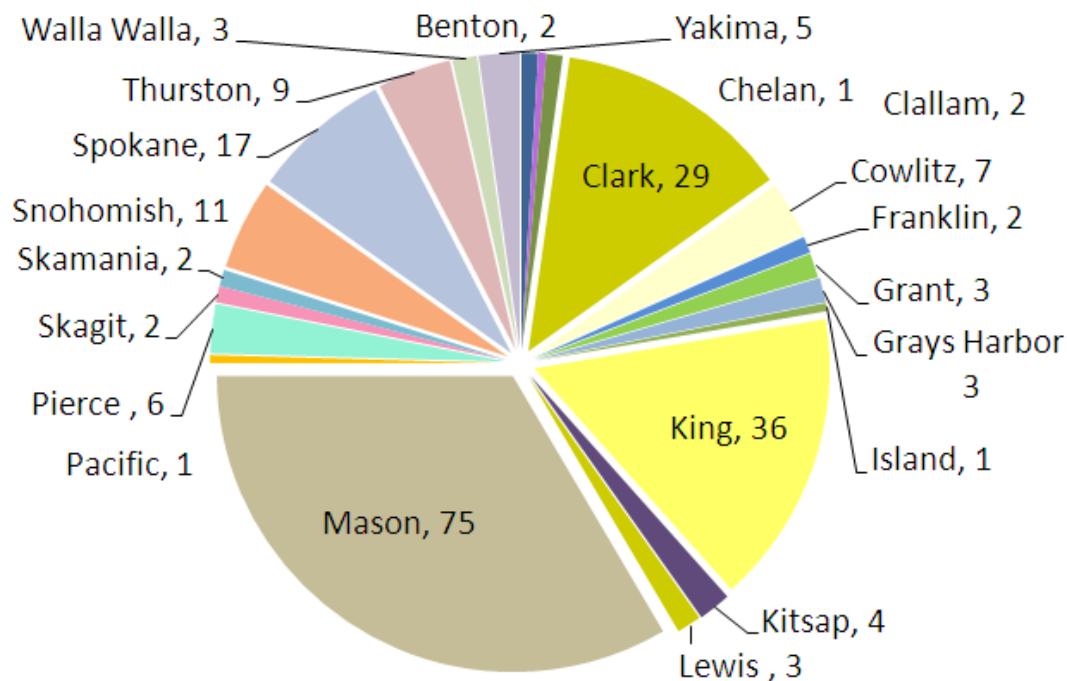
If your agency is interested in having CODIS staff come to your facility for this type of training please contact us at confel@wsp.wa.gov.

CODIS HIT LEADS TO CONVICTION FOR 2002 LYNNWOOD RAPE

An exciting example of the power of the CODIS database and the importance of your convicted offender sample submissions is the rape conviction of a Lynnwood man stemming from a 2009 CODIS hit. An unsolved rape from 2002, of a then 13 year-old girl, was given new life when CODIS matched the casework forensic profile to the newly entered convicted offender profile of Dennis Wiseman. Wiseman was arrested for vandalizing police vehicles in 2002, but was not charged until 2004. Upon his eventual conviction of first degree malicious mischief in 2008, a DNA sample was submitted to our lab.

Though it took seven years, thanks to the CODIS program and our collectors, Wiseman's victim was finally able to receive some closure and the knowledge that her attacker is being held responsible. This case is another fantastic reminder of the impact the CODIS program has on all of our communities. For more details on this conviction please see the website below:

<http://www.heraldnet.com/article/20091027/NEWS01/710279919>



2009: Convicted Offender Hits Generated By County

WHERE DID LAST YEAR'S HITS COME FROM?

Though having 257 hits last year is exciting, it is worthwhile to note that every single hit is important. One hit can result in the investigative lead that exonerates or identifies a suspect, or connects two seemingly unrelated crimes. Every convicted offender sample that is submitted to the lab is a possible CODIS hit, and with that carries the significant potential to aid in the public's safety.

The graph above illustrates the 2009 CODIS hits sorted by the county from which the convicted offender sample originated. With over 20 different counties represented it is clear our hits come from all across the state.

DUPLICATE SAMPLE SUBMISSIONS

To help reduce duplicate submissions, the CODIS Laboratory urges collecting agencies to check an offender's criminal history record prior to collecting a DNA sample. On average 20% of the samples received by the CODIS Lab each month are duplicates — a significant drain on time and resources. When looking at an offender's criminal record, if the "DNA Taken" field is set to "Y", you do **not** need to submit another sample.

No access to criminal history records? You can get access free through the Washington State Patrol using the Washington Access to Criminal History (WATCH) search engine. Visit the website listed below for more information on access to WATCH.

For assistance checking offender sample collection status please contact the CODIS Laboratory at confel@wsp.wa.gov.

<https://watch.wsp.wa.gov/>

WATCH
WASHINGTON ACCESS TO CRIMINAL HISTORY

Q & A

My agency doesn't normally collect fingerprints from offenders—are the thumbprints required for convicted offender DNA sample submission?

YES! The CODIS Laboratory uses the thumbprints from a submission card to verify an offender's identity. This is a very important step when confirming CODIS hits, and adds an extra layer of quality control to our results. Even if you are handling a recollection request the thumbprints are required.

With regards to fingerprints, WSP's Criminal Records Division has noted that using an ink pad designed specifically for fingerprinting is preferable for good results. Prints should not be smudged and ridge detail should be clear and visible. Some suggested ink pads and where they can be ordered are listed below:

- Porelon Fingerprint pad (2-1100)
Lightning Powder 1-800-852-0300
- BlackMagic Ink pads (30054, 30055)
Lynn Peavey Company 1-800-255-6499
- Micro PORELON pad, 1 5/8 dia. (PMP100)
Sirchie Fingerprint Laboratories 1-800-356-7311

COME VISIT THE WSP CODIS LABORATORY

If members of your agency are in the Seattle area and are interested in visiting the WSP CODIS Lab, a tour may be possible. Though we cannot accommodate many groups on a regular basis, we do enjoy the opportunity to share a look into our laboratory. For inquiries please contact us at confel@wsp.wa.gov.

When ordering Convicted Offender DNA Collection Kits is there a minimum number that I must order?

There is no minimum number of kits that must be ordered. Some of our smaller collection agencies may only collect 5 samples a year, whereas larger agencies submit hundreds of samples each year. In order to accurately predict and prepare kit supply, we do ask that larger agencies order enough kits to last them no more than 6 months. This prevents us from running out of kits too quickly and allows us to plan future stock.

Though there is no minimum order required, please keep in mind that kit orders larger than 100 must be placed in multiples of 100 (i.e.: instead of 150 kits order 100 or 200 kits). Kit orders less than 100 may be any quantity. For questions, or to place a collection kit order please contact us at confel@wsp.wa.gov.



Sherri and Stephanie at work typing convicted offender samples.

How often should I send in my agency's convicted offender samples?

Please send in convicted offender submissions as soon as possible. For larger agencies, batches of samples can be sent in weekly. The sooner we receive the samples in the laboratory the sooner we can get the offender profiles into CODIS.